

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0457

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: MEETING OF CAPE TOWN FIVE WITH BOTHA, MARCH 8

FOLLOWING JOINT REPORT OF CAPE TOWN FIVE MEETING WITH BOTHA,
AT LATTER'S REQUEST, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THEIR MARCH 8
MEETING WITH FOURIE ON CLARIFICATION OF THE FIVE'S PROPOSAL
(SEPTEL).

1. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING WITH FOURIE, HE SAID
THAT THE MINISTER WISHED TO SEE US TO DISCUSS AN URGENT AND
SERIOUS MATTER. BOTHA RAISED TWO ISSUES. THE FIRST WAS NUJOMA'S
INTERVIEW ON SOUTH AFRICAN TELEVISION (CAPE TOWN 434). ON THIS
HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED AT THE
FIVE'S SILENCE. HE SAID, WHEN THE TRUTH COMES OUT, WHY DO YOU
NOT REACT? OUR RESPONSE TO THIS WAS TO CONTINUE OUR NON-REACTION.

2. BOTHA THEN REFERRED TO THE RECENT DISTURBANCES IN
KATATURA AND IN THIS CONTEXT READ OUT A DOCUMENT CONTAINING
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THE MINUTES OF A SWAPO MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING DATED
1. JANUARY 1978 WHICH HAD BEEN OBTAINED IN RECENT DAYS.
THE THRUST OF THE DOCUMENT WAS A DESCRIPTION OF FUTURE
SWAPO OPERATIONS AND MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS
REFLECTING AN UPGRADING OF THE SWAPO CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT
THE TERRITORY. HAVING GONE THROUGH THE DOCUMENT, BOTHA
SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER

TO SAY THAT THE SAG COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE PASSIVE ATTITUDE OF THE FIVE IN THE FACE OF THE SERIOUS THREAT POSED BY SWAPO AGAINST SOUTH WEST AFRICA, ITS PEOPLE, THE ELECTIONS AND FREEDOM IN GENERAL. THE PRIME MINISTER APPEALED TO THE FIVE TO RECONSIDER URGENTLY THEIR WHOLE POSITION ON THE TALKS AND BRING THEM TO AN URGENT CONCLUSION WITH A VIEW TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. HE AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA WOULD DETERIORATE AND BEFORE LONG THEY WOULD HAVE TO STRENGTHEN TROOP AND POLICE LEVELS. BOTHA URGED US TO FINALIZE THE TALKS "WITHIN A FEW DAYS."

3. COMMENT: THIS PRESENTATION WAS ANOTHER OF THE MELODRAMATIC BOTHA PERFORMANCES DESIGNED TO IMPRESS US WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY AND TO PUT SWAPO IN A BAD LIGHT. AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, WE NOTICED THAT FOURIE AND VAN HEERDEN, WHO WERE ALSO PRESENT, WERE VISIBLY EMBARRASSED. IN RESPONSE, WE SAID THAT WE DEPLORED THE VIOLENCE AND SAW THE RECENT INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN THE NORTH AND UNREST IN THE TOWNSHIPS AROUND WINDHOEK AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF THE NEED TO FINISH THE NEGOTIATIONS.
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